(d) The Central financial assistance is released on the basis of the approved projects as per the financial norms prescribed under the relevant Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(e) No, Sir.

Educational channel for education to rural children

1351. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch an educational channel on TV to impart primary and higher education to rural children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the plan to set out such a programme in all the States by private channel, in collaboration with NGOs and industries; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Indira Gandhi National Open University have launched an Educational Channel 'Gyan Darshan' in collaboration with Doordarshan on 26.01.2000. It is currently doing 19 hours of non-stop transmission. It transmits a variety of educational enrichment programmes including some for primary and higher education students.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government is not aware of any such proposal for opening of private channel in collaboration with NGOs and Industries.

Improving education standards in Information Technology

1352. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any ambitious plan to improve the quality and standard of education in the country, particularly in the Information Technology Sector;

(b) whether Government have planned to introduce any national education system for test for engineeing and architecture admissions in the coming years;

(c) if so, the details of those National and State level organisations who are taking entrance examination for admissions in various courses in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide computer education at higher level in the country?